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The Text of the Watergate Defense

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The following are 34 points presented to the House Judiciary Committee by White House lawyer James D. St. Clair defending President Nixon on the Watergate break-in and cover-up.

EXCERPTED-

13. The testimony of (L. Patrick) Gray before the Senate Select Committee establishes that the origin of the theory of Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the break-in of the DNC was in the FBI and that Gray communicated the theory to Dean on June 22, 1972. Dean confirmed that Gray informed him on June 22, 1972, that one of the FBI theories of the case was that it was a CIA operation and Dean testified that he reported this to Haldeman and Ehrlichman on June 23.

14. Haldeman's testimony before the Senate Select Committee confirms that Dean reported to him the FBI's concern about CIA involvement and that Haldeman in turn reported this to the President, who ordered Haldeman and Ehrlichman to meet with the CIA officials to ensure that the FBI investigation not expose any unrelated covert operation of the CIA. This uncertainty regarding the possibility of uncovering CIA activities was recognized in a memo dated June 28, 1972 from (Richard) Helms to (Lt. Gen. Vernon A.) Walters.

15. The President stated on May 22, 1973, that it did seem possible to him that because of the involvement of former CIA personnel, the investigation could lead to the uncovering of covert CIA operations totally unrelated to the Watergate break-in. The President stated he was also concerned that the Watergate investigation might lead to an inquiry into the activities of the Special Investigations Unit. Gray testified that on July 6, 1972, the President told him to continue to conduct his aggressive and thorough investigation of the Watergate affair.

16. The President was unaware that Gray had destroyed documents found in (E. Howard) Hunt's safe until told by Henry Petersen on April 17, 1973.